

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 EB-07 OMB-01
TRSE-00 AID-05 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 INT-05 COME-00 OES-07 FEAE-00
ERDA-05 /121 W

-----027578 211537Z /46

R 210500Z JUN 77

FM AMCONSUL DJIBOUTI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 096

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SANA

USUN NEW YORK 10

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NAIROBI FOR REDSO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGSC PDEV, EAID, FT

SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE FOR REPUBLIC OF DJIBOUTI

1. THE REPUBLIC OF DJIBOUTI ACIEVES ITS INDEPENDENCE JUST AFTER
MIDNIGHT ON 27 JUNE 1977. THERE IS NO APPARENT EXHALTATION IN
DJIBOUTI IN THIS FINAL WEEK EBFOR INDEPENDENCE; THE GOVERNMENT
AND PEOPLE OF JDIBOUTI SEEM TO RALIZE THAT FEW SOVEREIGN STATES,
IF ANY, HAVE STARTED WITH POORER PROSPECTS. A FEW RAW STATISTICS
TELL THE TALE: THE LOCAL ECONOMY IS LARGELY BASED ON SERVICES
PROVIDED EXPATRIATE MILITARY PERSONNEL AND CIVILIANS WHICH COULD
BER REMOVED VIRTUALLY AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE. THE CITY OF DJIBOUTI
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IS SATURATED WITH UNEMPLOYED, PROBABLY 80 PERCENT AT PRESENT TIME.
OUTSIDE OF CITY LIMITS, THE ANNUAL CASH ENTRY INTO THE MODERN ECONOMY
BY NOMADIC TRABESMEN IS ESTIMATED AT \$50 ANNUALLY. THERE IS NO
INDIGENOUS AGRICULTURE, EVERYTHING IS IMPORTED TO SUSTAIN THE CITY
OF DJIBOUTI. THERE ARE THREE UNIVERSITY GRADUATES, INCLUDING TWO
PHYSICIANS (ONE AFAR, ONE ISSA) AND ONE SORBONNE GRADUATE IN
POLITICAL SCIENCE. EVEN THE MOST TRIFLING ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

EFFORTS IN THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUED TO BE PROVIDED BY OVERPAID
EXPATRIATE BUREAUCRATS.

2. FORTUNATELY, THE PLIGHT OF DJIBOUTI IS WELL-KNOWN, AND A NUMBER
OF COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL LENDING ORGANIZATIONS HAVE ALREADY
SENT REPRESENTATIVES TO DJIBOUTI TO EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITIES FOR
ASSISTANCE TO DJIBOUTI. AMONG THESE VISITORS HAVE BEEN REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE FED, FAC, EEC, ARAB LEAGUE, IBRD, ETC. AMONG THE PROJECTS
WHICH HAVE BEEN PROPOSED TO THESE GROUPS BY THE FLEDGLING GOVERNMENT
OF DJIBOUTI ARE THE FOLLOWING:
--RED SEA SEAWEED PROJECT. ALGAE PRODUCED IS USED IN COSMETICS
IN EUROPE, AND APPARENTLY PROJECT PICKED UP BY EEC.
--LARGE MINERAL PROJECTS. LIMESTONE DEPOSITS ARE AVAILABLE FOR
MAKING CEMENT. LAKE ASSAL HAS PRODIGIOUS QUANTITIES OF SALT
AND HEAVY MINERALS FOR POSSIBLE COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION.
--FISHING INDUSTRY. DESPITE RICH MARINE RESOURCES OFF THE COAST,
THERE IS NO MODERN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT AND ALMOST NO LOCAL
FISH CONSUMPTION.
--PORT IMPROVEMENT. FED HAS FUNDED APPROXIMATELY \$1 MILLION FOR
FEASIBILITY/ENGINEERING STUDIES.

--AGRICULTURE. THERE IS A HANDFUL OF LOCAL VEGETABLE PLOTS AROUND
DJIBOUTI, BUT NO ORGANIZED MARKET SYSTEM. A NUMBER OF PROJECTS
HAVE BEEN PROPOSED OVER THE YEARS, BUT LOCAL PRODUCERS USUALLY
UNABLE COMPETE WITH DJIBOUTI FOODSTORES WHICH RELY ON IMPORTED
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GOODS. MORE ON THIS BELOW.

--SOLAR ENERGY, TOURISM, BANKING AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS
WHICH MAY HAVE POTENTIAL BUT WHICH LACK THE NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURE
FOR SERIOUS CONSIDERATION AT THE PRESENT TIME.

3. THE AREA WHICH HAS BEEN SPECIFICALLY BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION
OF THE POST BY THE GOVERNMENT OF DJIBOUTI IS THAT OF AGRICULTURE.
MINISTER OF PLAN AND DEVELOPMENT ABDALLAH MOHAMMED KAMIL HAS
SUBMITTED A ROUGH DRAFT OF AN INTEGRATED PROJECT CONSISTING
OF DEVELOPING KNOWN WATER SOURCES THROUGH SHALLOW WELLS, USING
THE WATER FOR IRRIGATION OF NEW LANDS AND PROVISION OF EXPERT
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE OPENING STAGES OF THE PROJECT.
HE HAS ASKED WHETHER THE US GOVERNMENT COULD SEND A GROUP OF EXPERTS
TO DJIBOUTI TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF WATER FORAGE, IRRIGATION, DRY LAND
AGRICULTURE AND AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION. A NUMBER OF GEOLOGICAL
STUDIES ARE AVAILABLE, AND MINISTER KAMIL STATES THAT AREAS OF KNOWN
AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL CAN BE SHOWN TO U.S. EXPERTS.

4. POST RECOMMENDS THAT A TEAM OF APPROPRIATE USAID TECHNICAL
EXPERTS VISIT DJIBOUTI AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE AFTER INDEPENDENCE
TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL PROJECTS.

CLARKE

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